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## W. DOWNER

Proprietor.

## THE ANNEXATION OF CANADA.

William T. Stead's Observations on Present and Future Relations.

When Englishmen discuss the possible pull of the gravitation of the United States upon their empire they usually confine their remarks to Canada. They do not realize that Canada, being by far the largest and most important of the British-American possessions, would probably be the last to succumb to the continually increasing force of gravitation exercised by its southern neighbor.

Canada alone of all the British colonies in the Western Hemisphere is large enough and strong enough to render its independent existence thinkable even if the protectingegis of Great Britain were withdrawn. All the other colonies would probably drop like ripe plums into Uncle Sam's hat but for their connection with Great Britain. The Dominion of Canada, however, has ambitions of its own, and is rather inclined to believe that, if annexation is to take place, it would be better for the world if the United States were annexed by Canada than Canada by the United States.

The Canadians are the Scotch of the Western Hemisphere, and have just as good an opinion of themselves as our neighbors in North Britain, who to this day resent bitterly any suggestion that the union which merged Scotland and England into Great Britain was the annexation of the smaller country by the larger. Scotland and England were united first by the golden circle of the crown when James I. and VI. crossed the Tweed and founded an ill-fated dynasty in Great Britain.

THE UNITED STATES UNGRATEFUL TO CANADA.

I remember the late Mr. Bayard, just as he was leaving the American Embassy in London, describing to me what he regarded as the unpardonable mistake which was made by the protectionists of the United States at the close of the War of the Rebellion. "No one," he said, "has ever rendered adequate justice to the service which the Union received from the Canadians during the whole of that tremendous struggle. With the exception of one or two ridiculous raids by Confederate sympathizers, we were able to leave the whole of our Northern frontier without a garrison.

"Not only so, but we used Canada as an inexhaustible source of supplies throughout the whole war. Yet when at the close of the war a deputation from the Canadians came to Washington to plead for free access to American markets they were told they could not expect to have the privileges of American citizens unless they came under the American flag. Now, the Canadian can be led, but he cannot be bullied. The deputation, instead of applying for the privileges of American citizenship, went home, federated the Dominion, constructed the Canadian Pacific, and postponed for many years the inevitable union of North America under one flag. A little less selfishness and a little more statesmanship would have brought them all in long ago."

Whether Mr. Bayard was right or wrong in his account of the genesis of what may be called Canadian Nationalism, there can be no doubt that since that date the Canadians have resolutely turned their gaze from Washington to Westminster. There is something almost pathetic in the anxiety of our Canadian fellow subjects to emphasize their loyalty to the empire.

Every Canadian—man, woman, or child—spends, on an average, twenty-five dollars a year in the purchase of American goods. The German average is about a guinea a head, while the average sale of American goods in Great Britain is below seven shillings a head. Two-thirds of the American goods purchased by Canadians consist of American manufactures. The total value of American imports into Canada amounts to £22,500,000 sterling. Not only is it large in itself, but it is increasing. In 1875 of all Canada's purchases

abroad fifty per cent. came from Great Britain.

As this percentage began to drop the experiment of the preferential duty was tried, but failed to arrest the decrease. In 1897 the proportion of British imports had dropped to twenty-six per cent., and in 1900 to twenty-five per cent. In 1875 the United States sold to Canada forty-two per cent. of her total imports; in 1897 this had risen to fifty-five per cent., and in 1900 to over sixty per cent. The United States, therefore, notwithstanding the preferential duty, has more than taken the position which we occupied with the Canadian purchaser in 1875.

MAY ANNEX CANADA BY DEPOPULATION OR COLONIZATION.

The interchange of commodities between two communities speaking the same language and living on either side of an imaginary line is only one of the economic forces that would make for union. For many years past there has been a steady stream of emigration from Canada to the United States.

There are very few Canadian families who have not one or more relatives who have gone to seek their fortunes in the great American cities or on the fertile prairies of the United States. There are more emigrants from Canada in the United States in proportion to their population than from any other country. The richer and more developed lands to the south have an irresistible attraction for the more enterprising and ambitious Canadians.

In addition to the influence of commerce and emigration there is another force which may be still more potent. I refer to the fact that the great American capitalists, ever on the lookout for fresh fields in which to invest their millions, have begun to develop on a great scale the immense mineral resources which are as yet practically untapped in the Canadian Dominion. American capital is pouring into the country.

Few things have attracted more attention in recent industrial development than the extent to which American capitalists are investing their money in the exploitation of the immense and almost virgin resources of Canada. The industrial annexation of the Dominion is in full swing. The Vanderbilt railway combination has taken in hand the development of the enormous coal and iron district of Nova Scotia, and proceeds in the campaign with that combination of restless energy and methodical preparation that characterize the great American trusts.

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ULTIMATE ALLIANCE IS INEVITABLE.

What is to be hoped for is that, when the inevitable union takes place, it will be brought about with the hearty consent and concurrence of the mother country, even if the mother country herself does not set the example to Canada by taking the initiative in promoting that race alliance toward which everything seems to point. Should such a union take place it is probable there would be considerable simplification of the somewhat curious political arrangement now existing in the Canadian Dominion. Decentralization and home rule are very good things, but they may be carried too far, and eight separate parliaments with eight separate executives seems a somewhat excessive allowance for a population that is not much in excess of the population of Greater London.

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"You Have Won Her Heart."  
"Stay in Your Own Back Yard."  
"When The Autumn Leaves Are Falling."

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